THE ATTILA OF THE GOUT,

BEING

A peculiar ACCOUNT of that Diſtemper, in which the Vanity of all that hitherto has been Writ and Practis'd to remove it, and an infallible Method to Cure it are Demonſtrated, with ample Teſtimonies of Patients Cured.

By JOHN MARTEN, *Surgeon.*

LONDON,

Printed for the *Author*, and Sold by *N. Crouch* at the *Bell* in the *Poultry*; *M. Atkins* at the *Golden-Ball* the Weſt-end of St. *Paul*'s Church-yard; *P. Varenne* at the *Seneca*'s Head near *Somerſet-Houſe* in the *Strand*; and *C. King* at the *Judge*'s Head in *Weſtminſter-hall*, Bookſellers, 1713. Price Stitch'd 6*d*.

THE
MATTER
OF THE
GOUT.

THE INTRODUCTION.

AMong all the Diſeaſes that infeſt our Humane Bodies, there is not one known hitherto, that more deſervedly is called Opprobrium Medicorum, the Reproach of Phyſicians, than the Gout.

The Engliſh Word which is the ſame with the French has its Origin from Gutta, (ex defluxu guttatim facto) a barbarous Latin Tranſlation of the Greek Arthritis, or articular Diſeaſe, which is the general Name for all the different Species of Joint-Pains; in the various Denominations of which the Learned have been as Copious as they have been Defective in writing any thing materially as to the Cure of them.

In the Feet, the Diſtemper is call'd Podagra; in the Knees, Gonagra; in the Hips Iſchiatica; in the Hands, Chiragra; and in the Shoulders, Homogra. Theſe are the Parts moſt obnoxious to the Diſeaſe, and conſequently the Names already mention'd are every where obvious in Medical Authors. But as theſe Arthritick Pains, not being confin'd to their uſual Stations, have now and then, though rarely, remov'd the Scene of Affliction to other Places, your Extraordinary Phyſicians, not to be behind-hand

hand with the Diſtemper, have ſtill vary'd the Name, according to the difference of the Part it has affected.

In the Vertebræ *of the Neck, it is term'd* Trachelagra; *in the* Spina Dorſi, *or Back-bone,* Rachiſagra; *in the Ankle,* Talia, *or* Talla; *and when it ſeizes the Joint of the Jaw, it muſt be ſtiled* Siagonagra; *in the Joint of the Elbow, it is called* Pechiagra; *and in the Teeth, tho' there is no Articulation there,* Odontalgia *by* Strobelbergerus, *who will have the Tooth-ach to be a kind of* Gout. *Beſides the Parts I have nam'd,* Etmuller *has obſerv'd the ſame* Arthritick *Pain, in one half of the* Noſe; *as alſo in the* Sternum *which comprehends the Bones and Cartilages of the Breaſt, the only two Places I could ever meet with, where the* Gout *had not a particular Name.*

When Men with ſo much Nicety, give new Names to every ſtep and motion of a Diſtemper, who would think otherwiſe, but that by long experience in Curing of it, they had found an eſſential Difference between the ſeveral Species, and had particular Remedies ready for every one of them? Yet far from this, Phyſicians in general agree, that all the above-mention'd Species require the ſame method of Cure; and whoever conſults the moſt noted among them, will find, that concerning the internal and immediate Cauſe *as well as* Cure *of this Diſeaſe, nothing has been hitherto writ with any certainty; that very few have given us a better Hiſtory of it than every Patient can furniſh us with; and in ſhort, that in treating of the* Gout, *none have obſerv'd any Exactneſs but in the moſt* immaterial *Part, only fit for trifling Grammarians to meddle with.*

From what I have ſaid, the Reader may perhaps imagine, that I pretend to ſome new Syſtem, *by which the*

the Phænomena of this Diſtemper will be better ſolv'd than has been done hitherto; but I am ſo far from breaking my Head with Novelties and Speculation, that I have long ago thought, that the Time and Pains, which ſo many ingenious Men have beſtow'd in defending and refuting the Hypotheſis already broach'd, were thrown away to very little Purpoſe; and the reaſon of my ſetting forth a Treatiſe of his Nature, is wholly Practical. Some time ago, I met with a Medicine, that to two or three Patients afflicted with the Gout, gave immediate Eaſe. Not daring to hope for ſuch a good Fortune as all the World would eſteem the Poſſeſſion of ſuch an Arcanum, I at firſt aſcrib'd thoſe Succeſſes, either to Chance, or ſome unknown Accident; but ſince that, I have been convinc'd by ſo many Trials of the real worth of this excellent Medicine, that I ſhould think my ſelf injurious to the Publick, not to acquaint them with the ſtupendious Effects I have ſeen from it. I can eaſily foreſee the little Credit this bare Aſſertion would meet with from moſt People, if I had not undeniable Proofs, and home Inſtances of Succeſs to corroborate it with, neither am I ignorant of the great Difficulty the moſt able Phyſicians have had hitherto, in giving the leaſt Eaſe in the Diſtemper I ſpeak of. But as the ſame might have been ſaid of Quartan Agues, before the Uſe of the Jeſuits Bark was thoroughly known, ſo I ſhall give every Body leave to think what I ſay improbable, that will ſuffer himſelf to be convinced by Matter of Fact.

No Man, who has read the greateſt Experimental Philoſopher that ever Europe produc'd, I mean the Honourable Robert Boyle, Eſq; can doubt of the Exiſtence of Specificks; but before I ſay any more of them, or the Medicine I have hinted at, and which I think deſerves that Name, I ſhall briefly touch

touch on the most material Things which Practitioners have said of the Gout; *relate some of the most noted Conjectures, and different Reasonings concerning the Causes of it, and demonstrate how little the best contriv'd* Hypothesis, *and all the witty Speculations of the Ingenious, have hitherto contributed to the* Curative *part of this Distemper and the real comfort of the Afflicted. In the mean time I shall desire the Reader from what I say, not to imagine as if I any ways slighted the Knowledge of* Causes, *or thought it unnecessary to the removing of the Distempers. I have always been of Opinion that a* sound Theory *was the Foundation of a* safe Practice, *yet I can't help thinking, but that how long soever People may wrangle about the Explication of the* Essence *and* Phænomena *of a Distemper,* the true end of Physick is to cure it.

From my House on the left Hand beyond the Chappel in *Hatton-Garden, London.*

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

Of the Symptoms of the GOUT.

IN giving a definition of the *Gout*, every Author has hook'd in ſomething of the *Syſtem* he follow'd, yet all of them agree that it is a deep, diſtending, piercing, throbbing, continual, and bitter Pain in the *Glanduls* next adjoining to the *Perioſtium*. It is generaly divided in *Hot* and *Cold*: In the Firſt, the Skin of the Part affected is higher colour'd, and the Pain more intenſe than in the latter.

In the Hiſtory of this Diſeaſe, I ſhall follow the Candid as well as Sagacious *Sydenham*, who has ſet down the *Phænomena* of it, with greater Fidelity, and made more uſeful obſervations in the *Gout*, than all the Phyſical World beſides. After diſtinguiſhing between the *Regular* and *Irregular* Attacks of this Diſtemper, he has obſerv'd, that the former generally invade People all on a ſudden, at the latter end of *January*, or the beginning of *February*. All the Notice that the *Gout* gives 'em of its Approach, is, that ſome Weeks before, the Patients find a Crudity and Rawneſs in their Stomachs, with a windy ſort of Diſtention and Heavineſs of the Body, which Symptoms daily encreaſe, till at laſt the *Tyrant* at once appears. A few Days before there is a Numbneſs felt, and as it were a deſcent of Wind through the fleſhy part of the Thighs, with ſpaſmodick Motions; and the Day before

fore the Fit, the Appetite is more Voracious than at other times, but not Natural; the Patient goes to Bed tollerably well, but about two hours after Midnight he is waked with the violence of the Pain, for the moſt part affecting the great *Toe*, ſometimes the *Heel*, and at other times the *Ankle*, or the *Calf* of the *Leg*. This Pain is like that of diſlocated Bones, and feels as if cold Water was poured upon the Membrane of the Part affected, which is followed by ſhivering and ſhaking, and ſomething of a Fever; as the Pain encreaſes, ſo the ſhivering and ſhaking go off by degrees; about Night the Pain is come to its height, accomodating it ſelf according to the variety of the Bones of the *Tarſus*, and *Metatarſus*, whoſe Ligaments it ſeizes, ſometimes reſembling a violent ſtretching of thoſe Ligaments, ſometimes the gnawing of a Dog, and at other times an incumbent Weight. The Part affected has moreover ſuch an exquiſite Pain, that the very Bed-cloaths are inſupportable to it as well as hard treading in the Chamber; another Affliction that diſturbs the Patient, is the wearyſome turning of the Part hither and thither, and its continually changing of Place. The toſſing likewiſe of the whole Body which always attends the Fit, is as tireſome as the continual Agitation and Pain of the afflicted Member. A thouſand endeavours are uſed in changing the Poſture of the Body, and the Place whereon the Member lies to alleviate the Pain, but no Eaſe is had till two or three a Clock in the Morning of the ſecond Day, at which time the Patient is ſuddenly reliev'd by reaſon there is ſome Digeſtion and Diſcuſſion of the Peccant Matter, tho' he undeſervedly aſcribes it to that poſition of the affected Member he uſed laſt.

laſt. And now being in a breathing Sweat, he falls a ſleep, when he wakes, he finds the Pain much abated, and the Part affected, ſwell'd. The next Day, and perhaps two or three after, if the Matter that breeds the *Gout*, is copious, the Part affected will be more in Pain again, which encreaſes towards the Evening, but abates about the time of the Cock's crowing. Within a few Days the other Foot will be in Pain as the former was, and if the former has left off aking; the Weakneſs it had, ſoon vaniſhes, and Strength is ſo immediately reſtored to it, as if it never had been out of order, if the Pain is violent in the Foot lately ſeized. Sometimes when there is ſuch an abundance of Peccant Matter, that one Foot is not able to contain it, it afflicts both together with equal Violence; but moſt commonly it ſeizes them one after another as has been ſaid. After it has troubled the Feet, the Fits that follow are Irregular, both as to the Time of their Approach and Duration; yet the Pain always returns in the Evening, and abates again by Morning, and of a Series of theſe ſmall Fits, conſiſts what we call a Fit of the *Gout*, longer or ſhorter according to the Age of the Patient; for it is not to be ſuppos'd, when any one is afflicted with this Diſeaſe two or three Months, that it is one Fit, but rather a Series and Chain of many ſmall ones, whereof the latter are ſtill more gentle and ſhorter, till the Peccant Matter being wholly conſumed, the Patient recovers his former Health, which in vigorous People, or elſe ſuch who have rarely been afflicted with the *Gout*, comes to paſs often in fourteen Days, and in thoſe that have often had it, in two Months; but in ſuch as are more

weakned, either by the long continuance of the Diſeaſe, or by Age, it does not go off before the Summer. The firſt fourteen Days, the Urine is of a high Colour, which after Separation has a red Sediment, and looks as if it was full of Sand; the quantity of Urine the Patient makes, is not a third part of what he Drinks, and the Belly is moſt commonly bound the ſaid firſt Days. Want of Appetite, ſhaking of the whole Body towards Evening, heavineſs and troubleſome uneaſineſs of the Parts not affected, accompany the whole Fit; a violent itching of the Foot, afterwards attends the Fit in its going off, chiefly between the Toes, and the Feet Scale as if the Patient had taken Poiſon. The Diſeaſe being ſhook off, a good habit of Body, and Appetite return: According to the degree of Pain ſuſtain'd in the laſt Fit, the following will in Proportion be haſtened or retarded; for if the laſt Fit was very ſevere, the following will not come till the ſame time of the Year returns again.

Theſe are the Symptoms of the regular *Gout*, by which the Feet are only affected; they ſeeming to be the moſt genuine Seat of the Morbifick Matter, as the Word *Podagra*, an ailing of the Feet, which is the general Name commonly given to the Diſtemper, ſeems to intimate. But when by prepoſterous Methods of Cure, the Diſtemper is diſturb'd in its Courſe, or by the long Continuance of it, the ſtrength of the Body much diminiſh'd, and Nature is no longer able to thruſt out the Morbifick Matter through the uſual Paſſages; it then becomes irregular, and ſometimes affects one Part, ſometimes another, as the Hands, Wriſts, Arms, Knees, *&c.* It often invades one or

or more of the Fingers, diſtorts and makes them uſeleſs, and at length produces ſtony Concretions in the Joints of 'em, like unto Chalk or Crabs Eyes. Sometimes it affects the Arm or Wriſt, and there cauſes a whitiſh Swelling almoſt as big as an Egg. Sometimes tho' not ſo often, it falls upon the Thigh, and cauſes a Senſe, as if a great Weight were hang'd upon the Part, but the Veſſels being large, and conſequently the Obſtruction leſs, the Pain it excites in this Part, is inconſiderable. When it attacks the Knees, it cauſes moſt exquiſite Torments, and the Patient, who can neither move nor help himſelf, is as if he was nail'd or faſten'd to the Place he lies on; yet the Pain is not ſo urgent during the whole Fit, if the Patient can but keep the Part affected quiet.

Whereas the regular *Gout* ſeldom invades People but about the latter end of *Winter*, and after having held two or three Months at fartheſt, goes off civilly, now it remains a whole Year, excepting the two or three hot Months; and as in this irregular *Gout*, the general Fit is longer, ſo thoſe particular Fits that compoſe it, are likewiſe more laſting, and the Patients have frequently ſharp and violent Pains for fourteen Days together without Remiſſion, attended with Sickneſs, and often a total loſs of Appetite. The Patient during the Intervals of the Fits in the regular *Gout*, enjoy'd a perfect State of Health, but in this, even at the time of the Intermiſſion, he feels a Stiffneſs and Diſorder in thoſe Joints that have been affected, and is afflicted with unſavory Belchings, and other ſigns of Indigeſtion. When the Diſeaſe is confirm'd, it often happens upon Yawning, eſpecially in the Morning, that the Ligaments

of the Bones of the *Metatarſus*, are violently pull'd, ſometimes it feels as if the ſame Bones received a Blow with a great Club, and were broken in pieces. The *Tendons* of the *Muſcles* that ſupport the Legs, are ſometimes taken with ſuch ſharp and violent Convulſions, that the Pain occaſion'd by them, if it ſhould laſt but a little while, would be inſufferable. The Urine that was before high-colour'd, eſpecially in the Fits, and rendred in a ſmall quantity, is now like that voided in a *Diabetes*, both as to Colour and Quantity. It is to be obſerv'd likewiſe, that the more Years People have labour'd under this Diſtemper, the leſs violent is their Pain in the Joints; but the more gently they are treated, the more is the Morbifick Matter tranſlated to the inward Parts, which having once poſſeſs'd, it not only produces many Diſorders in the Stomach and Guts; but likewiſe perſonates, according to the Diſpoſition of the Patient, many Diſtempers to which the *Gout* ſeems to have no manner of affinity.

What I ſaid laſt, has hardly ever been touched upon by Phyſicians, and never particularly treated of, but by a late ingenious Author Dr. *Muſgrave* of *Exeter*, who in his Elegant *Latin* Treatiſe *de Arthritide anomala*, has furniſh'd the Learned World with many valuable Obſervations and Diſcoveries concerning the internal *Gout*.

The worthy Author I mention'd, calls no *Gout* Anomalous or Irregular, but that which leaving or paſſing by the uſual Objects of its Fury the *Joints* and *external* Parts, invades the *Trunk* it ſelf. The Diſtempers which by his own Experience he has known to have been perſonated by the *Gout*, are the following, *viz.*

In-

Indigeſtion, *loſs* of *Appetite*, *Pain*, and many other Diſorders of the *Stomach*, the *Cholick*, *Looſeneſs*, the *Bloody flux*, *Abſceſſes* in the *Guts*; *Melancholy*, *Syncope's* or *Faintings*; the *Stone* in the *Kidneys*, *Aſthma's*, *Catarrhs*, *Coughs* and *Peripneumony's*; the *Phyſick*, *Quinſies*, *Head-achs* and *Vertigo's*, *Apoplexies*, *Palſies*; wandring and fixed *Pains* in the Body; *Ophthalmy's*, *St. Anthony's Fire*; *Scald-Heads*; and *Defluxions* with the *Tooth-ach*; every one of theſe Diſeaſes, whoſe various Shapes he has known the *Gout* to aſſume, he treats of at large in diſtinct Chapters; annexing to each, as ſo many Practical Inſtances of what he aſſerts, one or more Hiſtories of his own Patients, in whom that particular Diſtemper has viſibly derived its origin from the *Gout*; from hence we may juſtly conclude, that the *Phænomena* of the Anomalous or irregular *Gout*, are not eaſily determin'd and no fewer in Number then all the Symptoms of the various Diſtempers, which it is able to imitate together.

Tho' theſe Obſervations of Dr. *Muſgrave* concerning ſo many different Diſtempers occaſion'd and perſonated by the *Gout*, are (as I hinted before) entirely new, yet that the *Miaſma Arthriticum*, or the Morbifick Matter of the *Gout*, may from the Joints be removed to the inward Parts, has been aſſerted by many Phyſicians, not only of this and the preceding Age; as *Sydenham*, *Etmuller*, *Sylvius*, and *Sennertus*, but ſeveral of the Ancients, as *Trallianus*, *Aetius*, *Paulus Ægineta*, *Galen* himſelf, and before him *Aretæus* of *Cappadocia*, have been of the ſame Opinion.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of the Causes of the GOUT.

AS to the first and remote, or Procatarctick Causes of the *Gout*, there has been little wrangling among the Physicians. The general Opinion is, that *Drunkenness* and *Gluttony* are the Father and Mother of this Distemper, and that a moist Air, too much Sleep, want of Exercise and Sloth, are necessary Causes: They likewise agree, that Excess of *Venery* has no small Hand in the Production of it; only the ingenious Dr. *Baynard* is of another Opinion as to the latter; and has handsomely endeavour'd to remove that Imputation. "How "*Venery* (says he) should "be lugg'd in to be a "Party concern'd ei-"ther in the Cause or "Quarrel, I can't un-"derstand; for among "the *Turks*, *&c.* where "they are mostly ener-"vated by Women, they "have no such thing as "the *Gout*, Wine being "by their Law forbid-"den, *&c.* so lay the "Load upon the right "Horse, and saddle old "*Bacchus*'s Back, as the "chief Author and Con-"triver of this Joint-"Evil, and ask *Venus* "Pardon for laying a "drunken Brat at her "Door which she never "deserv'd for.

Besides those palpable and notorious Causes from which the *Gout* is generally thought to derive its Origin. Dr. *Musgrave* (whom I quoted in the foregoing Chapter) has discover'd some more obscure ones, and observes that he has known it produc'd by several Distempers of which it has appear'd like a Symptom. His *Latin* Book on this Subject,

ject, which he calls a *Treatise* of the *Symtomatick Gout*, is full of useful Observations; and the Distempers upon which in his Practice he has found the *Gout* to ensue as a secondary Disease, are the following. A *Rheumatism*, a *Dropsy*, the *Green-sickness*, *Melancholy*, the *Hypochondriack* and *Hysterick Passions*, the *Scurvy*, the *Pox*, an *Asthma*, a *Fever*, the *Cholick*, and several *Cutaneous* Diseases. Tho' no Body has written so largely concerning the *Symtomatick Gout*, as the learned Author I nam'd, yet the same has been taken notice of by several before, and among others by *Averrhoes*, who testifies, that he himself became *Arthritick* from an acute Disease when Nature by the *Crisis* had driven forth the Humours unto the Joints.

It is generally received that few or none have the *Gout*, before the use of *Venery*, unless where the Distemper is *Hereditary*. But what *Hippocrates* said of Women, that they never had the *Gout*, unless their *Courses* were stopt, did not hold true many Ages after his; for since Luxury is encreased, Women are troubled with it as well as Men; they having as *Seneca* well observes, *not chang'd their Nature, but their manner of Living*. That the *Rich* are more afflicted with it than the *Poor*, is unquestionable; but what the Generality of Physicians assert, that this Distemper as well as the *Hypochondriack Passion* never invade Fools, is contradicted by Doctor *Musgrave*, who gives us a notable Instance of one, who having several Years been troubl'd with *Winds*, *Rumblings*, *Melancholy*, and many other Symptoms of the *Hypochondriack Passion*, was violently seized with the *Gout*, and at last kill'd by these two Distempers.

Hi-

Hitherto we have touch'd upon nothing, about which the different Opinions of Phyſicians have been many; but to ſee what has been ſaid concerning the immediate Cauſe of the *Gout*, we muſt enter into a ſpacious Field of Diſſention: Some will have it to be a bare *Intemperies*, or *Dyſcraty* without any afflux of Humours at all: Their Reaſon is, that often there is a Pain felt without the leaſt Swelling; this is the Opinion of *Coſtæus*, as may be ſeen in his Third Book upon *Avicen.* *Paræus* likewiſe gives us a Hiſtory of his own Diſeaſe, by which he would prove that a bare *Intemperies* may produce the *Gout*; and *Petrus Salius Diverſus*, makes mention of *Arthritick* Pains from Dryneſs. *Guainerius* and *Matthæus* alledge a Windineſs as the immediate Cauſe of the *Gout*, and if we believe *William ten Rhyne*, *Hippocrates* was of the ſame Opinion. This *ten Rhyne* was a *Dutch* Phyſician, that has wrote a *Treatiſe* of the *Gout*, in which affirming a Windineſs to be the Cauſe of that Diſtemper, he vindicates his Aſſertion after this manner. He firſt relates what *Hippocrates* has ſaid in his Book *de Flatibus*, touching the Air's being eſpecially the Author both of Life and Death to all Animals; as alſo his ſaying, that this Air or Spirit, which in our Bodies we call a Vapour, is the ſole Cauſe of all Diſeaſes, and afterwards has theſe Words. "I "therefore conclude "with *Hippocrates* that "the *Gout* ariſes from "filthy diſeas'd Steams, "or from a flatuous "Ventoſity, upon which "if any Humour fol-"lows, it was the Va-"pour that made way "for it; and if this Authority ſhould not be ſufficient, he adds, that *Guido de Cauliaco*, a ſtout Voucher for the four Humours, had ſaid how he read in the

Pope's

Pope's Canons, that the *Gout* arose from Vapours.

Abundance of Physicians have agreed, that the neerest Cause of the *Gout*, was a Humour, but even what that Humour was, has been a matter of endless Dispute among them. Some say it is *Phlegm* mix'd with *Blood*; others that it is *crude* and *watery* Blood; and others again, that it is a *Whey*. Some accuse all the Humours; *Blood*, *Choler*, *Phlegm*, and *Melancholy*. *Archinius* (saith he) Pains (saith they) are sometimes appeas'd by the Evacuation of *Blood*; other Pains by the purging forth of the *Phlegm*; a third sort from the emptying the Body of *Choler*; and the last kind of them, by the Evacuation of *Melancholy* are very much mitigated and allay'd; all which shew that the Cause of the *Archritis* or *Gout*, is sometimes *Hot*, and sometimes *Cold*, and the Matter thereof is very various and different.

Forestus on the contrary denies that the *Blood*, *Choler* or *Melancholy* can produce the *Gout*, and allows of no other Cause than a Cold *viscous*, or *Phlegmatick* and *Serous* Humour, affirming the *Gout* to be always a cold Distemper; yet *Thomas Erastus* in his fourth Disputation against *Paracelsus*, writes, that he never but once saw the *Gout* bred from a pure and meer *Phlegm*. *Carolus Piso* again will have the *Serous* and *Wheyish* Uncleanness to be the only Cause of the *Gout*.

Mercurialis and others having consider'd the vehement and wracking Pains that are often felt in the *Gout*, think it impossible they should be excited from a cold Phlegmatick Humour; and add, that such a Humour is likewise unfit for so quick and sudden a Motion as we see in the *Gout*, and that it cannot possibly insinuate it self into those membranous Parts; they therefore assert that a

hot Cause accompanies the other, and conclude that the *Gout* has its Original from *Phlegm* mixt with *Choler*. *Ludovicus Mercatus* again will not allow any vitious Humours (tho' they should abound) sufficient to produce the *Gout*; unless the same be likewise crude and indigested. *Cardanus* holds the Cause of the *Gout* to be a *Spirit*, and *Sennertus* will have it to be a salt, sharp subtile Humour, such a one as for the greatest part resembles Salt Spirits.

Many of the Chymists, as *Paracelsus*, *Petrus Severinus*, and others, have laid all the Fault upon the *Synovia*; by which Term they mean the *Mucilage* that is every where transcolated through the *Glands*, to lubricate the Parts, and more especially the Joints. The Disease (they say) is a Mineral Liquor, or a sour austere Juice, such as are *Allum*, *Vitriol*, *Vinegar*, *Barberries*, *Acacia*, and the like; which being Salts contrary and opposite to the *Synovia*, when they are generated in Men, make it boil over. The ingenious Dr. *Willis* is of Opinion, that to cause the *Gout*, a vitriolick Matter is brought from the Nerves, which meeting with some saline fix'd Particles of the Blood, they both boil up and grow hot together, and afterwards turn to a *Coagulum* or Curd: To prove this, he gives a known Instance of *Spirit* of *Vitriol* poured to *Oil* of *Tartar*; and why (says he) may we not think that in the Fits of the *Gout*, there is something like it? *viz.* That from the fighting and mutual Conflict of the Liquors, which are of a diverse saline Nature, the Nervous Fibres are prick'd and provok'd, and at length from the various Coagulations of either Juice, that there is sometimes heaped together in the affected Places a Calculous or Stony Matter. Dr

Dr. *Lister*'s Sentiment hereabouts is singular; he imagines that by some of the *Prodatartick* Causes, the *excretory Ducts* about the Joints may be debilitated, relax'd, or obstructed, and to be reduced unfit to perform their usual Contractions. Hence he thinks it will follow, that the Mucilaginous Humour now made *ex crudo & lento sero*, from a crude and viscous Serum, by stagnating in the *excretory Ducts*, will easily putrify, grow sharp, and be turn'd into an Ichorous Matter, and at last by corroding the Bones, be capable of turning them into a chalky or stony Substance.

Tachenius, *Sylvius* and *Etmuller* accuse likewise the *Synovia*, but more rationally than *Paracelsus* and his Followers. They consider the *Synovia* as a sweet and temporately *Alcalick* Balsam of Nature. This they say is the proper Object of the Volatile and Spirituous *acid* of *Gouty* People, by which being attack'd, the Mucilaginous Substance is successively thickned like the White of Eggs, and in tract of time turned into a chalky or stony Matter. Whoever would know more of this Mucilage, *Synovia*, or Glutinous Matter betwixt the Joints, and the *Glands* that emit it, must consult the *Osteologia Nova* of Dr. *Havers*, who is also of the last mention'd Opinion, and has treated that Matter with greater Accuracy than any that have writ before him.

How little certainty soever there is to be found among the Learned, concerning the Peccant Humour that causes the *Gout*, yet the Generality of the Moderns, and most of the Ancients agreed in this, that it is a violent, exalted, and as some call it, *Vitriolick* Acid; 'till some few Years ago, that nothing might remain uncontroverted, Dr. *Colebatch*,

batch, in Opposition of them all, at once absolved the Acids of all the Crimes laid to their Charge, not only in *Gouts* and *Rheumatisms*, but also in the *Scurvy*, *Consumptions*, *Fevers*, and many other Distempers, and threw the Fault (not without Argument) upon the *Alcaly*'s, the great *Asylum* of so many famous Physicians. He has Chymically separated the Blood of several Persons both Sick and Sound, and never met with a grain of *Acid* in any, but found the *Alcalies* more abounding in a morbid than a healthy State. He has demonstrated moreover, that the *Tophi* or Chalk-stones bred in the Joints, were made at the time of the Fit, that they were *Homogeneous* Bodies, and notorious *Alcalies*, and consequently, that it was impossible they should be produced by *Acids*. No Body has yet fairly overthrown his Arguments; and what work this must make among the Profession of Physick, I leave the Reader to judge, when the Author himself confesses, that if his *Hypothesis* be true, which he seems not to doubt of, then all other Physicians have been in the wrong.

Nor do the Learned differ more in defining the Morbifick *Gouty* Matter it self, than they do in assigning a Seat for it, I mean the Mine where it is heap'd up, and from whence at the Time of the *Paroxysm*, it is fetch'd to afflict the Parts. Several will have the Humour to be derived from the Head: Some of them say, that it comes from between the Skull and the Skin; others hold that it flows, not only that way, but likewise descends from within, by the Superficies of the Spinal Marrow. *Fernelius* is of the first, and *Eustachius Rudius* of the latter. A third sort say, that it comes down thro' the very middle Substance of the Marrow.

Many

Many are of Opinion, that the Humour is contain'd within the Veins and Arteries, and out of them poured forth into the Joints. *Sennertus* is one of these, and judging that it must of necessity be generated in some Concoction of the Blood, determines it to be in the Liver and Spleen; the Sanguification being there hurt in its own Manner. Another is *Adrian Spigelius*, but with this Difference, that though he acknowledges the Afflux to be made in the Veins and Arteries, he is yet unwilling wholly to desert the Opinion which determine that the Humours flow from the Head; wherefore he concludes, that the Fluxion is both from the Head and the Liver. But no Body renders this Matter more intricate than *Franciscus India*, a *Veronese* Physician, who in his first Book of the *Gout*, writes, that the Members that send forth these Superfluities are various and many; and especially the Head, the Stomach, the Intestines, the Liver, and the Kidneys, and that those Fluxions are indeed more especially from the Head and from the Brain; because that tho' those Humours draw their Original from the Intestines and from the the Stomach and other Members before they flow into the Joints, they first of all ascend into the Head, and from thence are afterwards transmitted into the Parts lying underneath it.

H

Tachenius, *Etmuller*, and others, trace the Original of the Acid *Gouty* Matter that affects the *Synovia*, from the Stomach and a depraved Digestion; but *Sylvius de le Boe* derives it from the *Pancreas* and other Glands.

There are other Opinions, of which for fear of tiring my Reader, I shall take no notice, for to relate every thing that has been said upon this

this Head, would be an endless piece of Work, and to have repeated all the Arguments that have been broach'd to defend and refute the several Opinions already quoted, must have swell'd this one Chapter to a very large Volume: What I design'd, was to say as much of these Things as would be sufficient to show the Reader, what certainty the most Learned Physician could have to boast of in his Art, whenever the true Knowledge of the Disease I treat of, came in question.

CHAP. III.

Of the Cure of the GOUT.

HAving seen how strangely the most famous Physicians disagree about the internal Cause and Fomes or Mine of the Disease, no Man of Sense can expect to meet in their Writings with any Method of Cure that is much to be depended upon. As to Remedies prescrib'd against the *Gout* in Physical Books, they are innumerable, and it would be much easier to fill a dozen Leaves with Medicines that are recommended by some Author or other, than half a Page with such Simples, as either by themselves or mixt with others have ever been used to Cure this Distemper. The candid *Sydenham*, not willing as other Authors are used, to enumerate and seem to recommend a heap of Remedies which in his Conscience he knew to be of little Efficacy in the Cure of so stubborn a Distemper, refers his Readers, as to the *Materia*

teria Medica to *Lucian's* Tragedy of the *Gout*, from whence he ſaid they might chuſe Externals and Internals, which perhaps they might find as effectual as many of thoſe Things that were cry'd up by ſome. But if this won't ſatisfie the curious Reader, and Compound Medicines are requir'd, let him conſult *Sennertus* and Sir *Theodore de Mayerne*, and in only theſe two Books, not to name any other, he'll meet with as much variety of judicious Preſcriptions, as any reaſonable Man would deſire.

It is certain that the generality of Phyſicians in the Cure of the *Gout*, lay the greateſt Streſs upon *Alcalies*; to which you ſhall hear what Dr. *Colebatch* ſays. Having repeated a long Series of Preſcriptions, which an eminent Phyſician had ordred to a Noble Man that died of the *Gout*, (they being chiefly *Alcalies* and *Opiates*) he has theſe Words. "The Medicines here "preſcrib'd, are thoſe "that are generally "uſed by moſt Phyſi- "cians, and if ever any "Body receiv'd Advan- "tage by them, I dare "be burnt; and that "ever Men ſhould have "ſuch dull Fancies, as "not to vary from a "Method that has ne- "ver once ſtood them "in any ſtead, looks "very odd; and as for "*Alcalious* Medicines in "general, I dare be po- "ſitive, that they never "yet cur'd any one Di- "ſtemper, but very fre- "quently have done a "great deal of Miſ- "chief.

The Phyſician from whom I have tranſcrib'd this, in conformity to his Doctrine, has preſcrib'd a Method of curing the *Gout*, by *Acids*, or at leaſt without the Uſe of any noted *Alcalies*, which yet beſides himſelf, few have hitherto thought fit to follow, notwithſtanding the Author gives ſeveral Inſtances of Perſons,

to

to whom it has very successfully been applied.

Another uncommon Method of Curing the *Gout*, is Burning: *Hippocrates* was the first Inventor of it; for in his *Treatise* of *Diseases* he says: "If the Pain continues Obstinate in "any one Part, and "cannot be expell'd by "Medicines, in what-"ever Part it is, you "must burn it with "crude Flax; and speaking of the *Gout*, he says; "the Disease is "indeed long and grie-"vous, but not Mor-"tal; but if the Pain "remains in the Toes, "burn them above the "Joints with crude "Flax. This uncouth Practice had been neglected many Ages, and was almost buried in Oblivion; When Dr. *Ten Rhine* (of whom I spoke in the preceding Chapter) after long Travels thro' *China* and *Japan*, reviv'd it among the *Europeans*. The Account he gives of the Manner after which those *Indians* infallibly remove *Arthritick* Pains is in Substance this. They take the Tops or smaller Leaves of broad leav'd *Mugwort*; when they are dry they rub them, and casting away the Stalks and other Rubbish, keep only the Down for Use. This when rightly prepar'd is like Cotton, and by them call'd *Moxa*; this Down, with their Thumb and Fore-finger they form into a Pellet of the bigness of a Pea, but of a Pyramidical Figure. Some put the *Cotton* of the purify'd Herb in a Paper, and roll it with their flat Palm, that so the Wool may be close and equally compact; from which they cut pieces about twice as big as a writing Pen: These they lay on the Place affected, (when they have wet it with their *Finger* moisten'd with their *Spittle*) and with a Candle or Match set Fire to them; for the Matter is easily Combu-

stible,

ſtible, and the *Chinois* carry it about them in Tinder-Boxes. When this little Turret is fir'd, the gentle Flame turns it not all to Aſhes, but leaves a little Segment of it in the Baſe, which draws the *Epidermis* with no Violence, nor raiſes any Bliſter, unleſs it may be, a ſmall and ſuperficial one. After the Operation they apply a Clove of Garlick bruiſed to the Place burnt, which they cover with a Plaiſter to keep it on.

No ſooner was this new Method of Cure publiſh'd, but it was made uſe of by ſeveral Perſons in *England* and *Holland*, not altogether without Succeſs, and among others, Sir *William Temple* when he reſided at the *Hague*, tried the Experiment upon himſelf; as may be ſeen in his *Miſcellanies*, p. 209. where he tells us, "That "when the Pain in his "great Toe was very "Violent, and he in "five Days had not "been able to ſtir his "Foot but as it was "lifted, he was ſudden-"ly reliev'd by the "*Moxa*, and walked "half a dozen turns "about the Room with-"out Pain or Trouble, "to the great Surprize "of thoſe that were "about him as well as "his own. As for the "Pain (ſays he) of the "burning it ſelf, the "firſt time is ſharp, ſo "that a Man may be "allow'd to complain; "I reſolv'd that I would "not, but that I would "count to a certain "Number as the beſt "Meaſure how long it "laſted. I told ſixſcore "and four as faſt as I "could; and when the "Fire of the *Moxa* was "out, all Pain of Burn-"ing was over. The "ſecond time was not "near ſo ſharp as the "firſt, and the Third "a great deal leſs than "the Second. The "Wound was not raw "as I expected, but "look'd only ſcorch'd "and black; and I had "rather endure the

" whole trouble of the " Operation, than half " a quarter of an hours " Pain in the Degree I " felt it the firſt whole " Night.

The Gentleman from whom this is tranſcribed, gives an Account alſo how the *Moxa* remov'd a Fit of the *Gout* from Monſi. *Serinchamps*, the Duke of *Lorrain*'s Envoy then at the *Hague*. Likewiſe one *Herman Buſſchof*, ſen. of *Utrecht*, reſiding at *Batavia* in the *Eaſt Indies*, in the Service of the *Dutch Eaſt India* Company, who wrote a Treatiſe in *Dutch* of the *Gout*, and its Cure by the *Moxa*, which was tranſlated here near forty Years ago, tells us in his Epiſtle to the Reader, that after he had paſſed five or ſix Weeks in the exceſſive Pains with the *Gout* in his Knees and Feet, which ſometimes in ſpight of his Teeth extorted Tears from his Eyes, and had conſumed his Fleſh as well as his Strength, and kept him in a manner always ſleepleſs, was Cured with the *Moxa*, by an *Indian* Doctreſs, but that he ſuffer'd the burning in about twenty Places; but notwithſtanding thoſe Succeſſes, the *Moxa*, whatever the Reaſon is, has never been in great eſteem among us: What Doctor *Sydenham* ſaid of it, I think was very judiciouſly ſpoke. " The " burning of the Part " affected (ſays he) may " be uſeful for mitigating the Pain, the " moſt ſpirituous Part " of the Morbifick Matter caſt off upon the " Joints, being drawn " out by it: But the Benefit obtain'd by this " Means, becauſe it does " not any way Cure Indigeſtion, the Antecedent Cauſe of the " *Gout*, muſt needs be " very ſhort and fading, " and to be uſed only, " when the *Gout* is beginning, for when the " *Gout*, as it ſometimes " happens, is turn'd inwards, either by its

" long

" long Continuance, or " by an unſeaſonable " and undue uſe of Me- " dicines, and ſo afflicts " the Patient rather " with *Sickneſs*, *Gripes*, " and a great many " other Symptoms of " this kind than with " Pain, I ſuppoſe that " no ſober Man will " think that Fire is to " be uſed.

And that the Pain is not always removed ſo eaſily as it was in Sir *William Temple*, we may learn from Dr. *Ten Rhyne* himſelf; When he ſays, " The burning in weak- " er Places is commonly " reiterated three or " four times; but in " other Places, if the " Patient be ſtrong, and " the Vapours lie deep; " thirty, nay above fif- " ty times.

This puts me in mind of two other Methods, which though they both wrought Cures, will hardly be ever follow'd again. The firſt is of one *Lewis Noel*, a Surgeon of *Geneva*, that had long been afflicted with the *Gout*. When he was laid up of a Fit, comes in a Madwoman, who catching hold of his Feet, hit one againſt the other, with all the Strength ſhe had, till ſome Body came to his Aſſiſtance and turn'd her out of Doors; he never afterwards was troubled with the *Gout*, tho' he liv'd till he was almoſt Ninety. The other is what *Michael Doringius*, a Surgeon of *Breſlaw* relates of a Phyſician who was a *Knight*, and bargain'd with an Inn-keeper his Hoſt for 300 Florens to Cure him of the *Gout*. Having taken a Note under the Patient's Hand, the Doctor orders him to ſet his Feet upon a Block; and having his Servants, two or three ſtout Fellows by to hold him in that Poſture, he takes a Hammer, and with half a dozen good Spikes, nails him to the Block; When he had done, he took Horſe and left his Hoſt a roaring. The *Knight* in the

mean time enquir'd how Matters went, and after three Years, when he heard the *Gout* was not return'd, came back and demanded his Pay.

Such merry Stories as theſe are plentifully intermix'd with the Labours of the Learned, but he that looks for Things really Beneficial and to be depended upon in the Diſtemper I ſpeak of, muſt go without them; which has made me often wonder why the Gentlemen of the Faculty ſhould take it ſo heinouſly if any Body dares meddle with the *Gout*, that is no graduate Phyſician, and wants Univerſity Education: When they are conſcious, that as to the Cure of the *Gout*, none of them has writ any thing to the Purpoſe. The Obſervations indeed of the Sagacious Dr. *Muſgrave*, are (as I have ſaid once already) very uſeful in the Practice of Phyſick: To give him his due, it muſt be confeſs'd, that without medling with frivolous Diſputes, either in refuting the *Syſtems* of others, or trumping up new ones of his own, he has had *Nature* for his Guide, and *Reaſon* for his Companion, and that his Preſcriptions are every where pertinent and judicious; but then he has ſaid nothing of the *Gout* as it is a primary Diſtemper, and only treated of thoſe *Gouts* that are either Symptomatick or Anomalous: That is, when the *Gout* ſucceeds and has it origin from any other Diſtemper, he teaches what regard in the Cure of it muſt be had to that Diſtemper from which it was derived; and when on the other hand the *Miaſma Arthriticum* invades the Trunk it ſelf, and there perſonates various Diſtempers, he gives Directions how to chaſe it from within, and make it return upon the Joints, which latter, inſtead of *Curing*, is the Art of *Procuring*, or giving

giving the *Gout*; and what the ingenious Dr. *Baynard* ſays of Dr. *Muſgrave*, *That he has ſaid of the* Gout *all that can be ſaid of it*, can in my Opinion admit of no other Interpretation, than that the primary *Gout*, of which he has not ſpoke one Syllable, is not to be medled with, becauſe among the moſt candid Phyſicians it is counted Incurable.

Honeſt Dr. *Sydenham*, who knew and had both read and felt as much of the Diſtemper as any Body, ingenuouſly confeſs'd, that he could not Cure it. And there are but few Authors to be met with, that have treated of the *Gout*, in whom to your Comfort you ſhall not find the known *Hexameter* with which I ſhall conclude this Chapter.

Tollere Nodoſam neſcit Medicina Podagram.

All th' Art of Phyſick cannot rout,
The ſtubborn Pains of Knotty Gout.

CHAP. IV.

Of Specificks.

WHen the *Ariſtotelian* and other Schools had for many Ages captivated Man's Underſtanding, and given the Name of *occult quality* to every thing that was not obvious to their outward Senſes, nothing certainly could be more charming to Men of Thought and Speculation than the *Carteſian* Philoſophy, which by teaching Men how to form probable Conjectures about every thing obſervable in created

ated Beings, gave them a delectable Insight into many Mysterious Operations of Nature. But such is the Condition of Mortals, that in this World there is no *Good*, but what has its opposite *Evil*; and this *Gayety* of Speculation, as well as *Freedom* of thinking, which should have only put Men upon the Search after Knowledge, the true end of Philosophy, have inspir'd many with so much Vanity, and such ridiculous Notions of the Strength and Self-sufficiency of their Reason, that forgetting the Shallowness of humane Capacity, what they could not comprehend, they have often refused to admit as Fact, tho' they have seen it before their own Eyes.

It is this Self-conceit of Ingenious Men that has made so many deny the Existence of *Specifick* Medicines, even whilst they were receiving the Benefit of them; which made the great *Boyle*, (to humour the Idol of the Age, *Reasoning*) when he was convinced of the certainty of an Experiment, wrack his Invention for Methods after which it was possible that Nature might have acted in the Production of it, as knowing that the Speculative World would relish no Truth, unless it was likewise made palatable to their Reason.

But tho' the Illustrious *Chymist* I nam'd, has very ingeniously reconciled the Existence of *Specificks* to the *Mechanical* and *Corpuscular* Phyloſophy, and thinks that in time the Industry and Sagacity of Men, will be able to discover *Intelligible* Causes of most of those Qualities that now pass for *Occult*, and among them of many of the *Specifick* Virtues ascrib'd to Medicines; yet on the other hand he fears much, that Men will not be successful in tracing out the true and immediate Causes of those good Effects of

some

ſome Remedies that depend upon ſuch fine and uncommon Textures, and ſuch latent and odly guided Motions: But whether we can give Reaſons for it or not; it is certain, that *Opium* generally cauſes Sleep; that a few Grains of *Cantharides* inwardly given, leaving other Parts unmoleſted, work upon the *Bladder* and *Urinary* Paſſages with an uncommon Force; and that the *Peruvian Bark* well adminiſtred, ſeldom fails of Curing intermitting Fevers.

What can be more unfathomable for our Underſtanding, than that a Drachm of ſuch a ſtony Subſtance as *Oſtiocolla* taken at the Mouth, ſhould be of that Efficacy in the breeding of a *Callous* to ſoder together the Parts of a broken Bone? Yet this is ſo well atteſted by daily Experience, and the Writings of Eminent Men, that it would be a Folly to doubt of it. Nay ſo viſible are the Effects of this Stone, that ſeveral, and among them that expert and judicious *Surgeon*, *Fabricius Hildanus*, give us a caution of uſing it but ſparingly in young and vigorous Patients, leſt it breed too great a *Callous*, of which there are ſome notable Inſtances. Now if after all this, a Man ſhould refuſe to adminiſter this Stone to a Patient that wanted it, only becauſe he did not underſtand which way the Medicine could reach the Bones, I think he ought to have his own broke.

" I do not (ſays the " ſagacious *Boyle*) by a " *Specifick* underſtand a " Medicine that will " Cure the Diſeaſe it is " good for infalliblyand " in all Perſons that " take it, for I confeſs " I never yet met with " any ſuch Remedy. " Nor do I by *Specifick* " underſtand a Medi- " cine that, almoſt like " a Charm works only " by ſome latent and " unaccountable Pro-

" perty,

" perty, without the " Aſſiſtance of any " known Quality; as " *Purgative*, *Diuretick*, " *Sudorifick*, &c. to be " found in other Medi- " cines; but by *Speci-* " *fick* I mean in this Diſ- " courſe ſuch a Medi- " cine as very often, if " not moſt commonly " does very conſidera- " bly and better than " ordinary Medicines, " relieve the Patient, " whether by quite cu- " ring or much leſſen- " ing his Diſeaſe, and " which acts principal- " ly upon the Account " of ſome Property or " peculiar Virtue; ſo " that if it has any ma- " nifeſt Quality that is " Friendly, yet the " Good it does is great- " er than can reaſona- " bly be aſcribed to the " Degree it has of that " manifeſt Quality, as " *Hot*, *Cold*, *Bitter*, *Su-* " *dorifick*, &c.

Other *Authors*, ſpeaking of *Specificks*, ſay, ſuch a one comes under that Denomination, as has a peculiar Virtue againſt ſome one Diſeaſe, and anſwers all Indications of Cure, how differently ſoever circumſtantiated with Symptoms, or how diſguis'd ſoever under the Appearances of other Affects, yet the *Modus agendi* a Secret, as uſually procuring no certain, or ſometimes ſenſible Evacuation of the Morbifick Matter; and that the aſſerting ſuch or ſuch a Medicine Cures *Specifically*, is in truth no more than to ſay, *it does it, becauſe it does it.*

In ſome of the firſt of theſe few Pages, I hinted at a *Liquor* which I have found of ſtupendious Uſe in the Cure of the *Gout*. And having perform'd what I there promis'd, I ſhall now examine whether, according to the Definition, which the noble Author I named laſt gives of *Specificks*, the Medicine I make uſe of may deſervedly claim that Title or not; aſſuring the Reader that I ſhall ſay nothing of it, but what

by

by often reiterated Experiments I have known it to perform.

Every Fit of the *Gout*, is Natures Favour (tho' a bitter one) to the Patient, whereby she critically disburthens her self of those Peccant Humours heap'd up, which if retain'd would be injurious to the Body; but as she can throw them no farther off than to the Extremities of the Joints, where having no Vent, they there display their Tyranny (to much less hurt than elsewhere) after a manner the Patient can best tell: Now what Medicine will incorporate with, and obtun'd in a friendly way, the Acrimony of those Humours so pent in, must necessarily appease their raging Fury; and if properly evacuated when so diluted and overcome, not fail of bringing that Fit to a Period; which is yet no more than helping Nature to do that, which of her self she is not able to perform either so surely or so quickly. For easing the Pains of the *Gout*, some are fond of outward Applications, and cry up this or that, as the best that can be, but I always caution against them, remembring that *Axiom* in Physick, *When the Humours do affect a particular Part, the whole of 'em must be corrected; else by applying a Remedy only to that Part, we shall drive the Humours to some other Place.*

Of such prevalency is this Drink, that no sooner is the Blood and consequently the Humours impregnated with it, but the Patient finds Ease: The most torturing Pains are alleviated by it in 3 or 4 Hours, and the Fit totally remov'd in as few Days. All the sensible Operation it has is by Urine, with which the *Gouty* Humours are eliminated, so as to be sensibly perceiv'd by the Patient while he is drinking it.

It is an acceptable Medicine to take, and far from being nauseous

or disagreeable to the Stomach, it pleasingly warms it, strengthens its Tone, defends it from the *Gouty* Assaults, creates an Appetite, and helps Digestion. "Dr. "*Sydenham* says, whatever assists Nature in duly performing her "Offices, whether in comforting the Stomach that it may "rightly concoct the "Food; or the Blood, "that it may assimilate "the Chyle unto it; or "the solid Parts, that "they may the better "convert to their proper Substance the "Juices design'd for "their Nourishment and "Increase; or whatever preserves the various Organs of Excretion, and the Emunctories of the Body, in such a State as "that they may be able "to discharge duly and "orderly the Excrements of each part, "conduce to the answering the Intention "of Cure, be the Method or Medicine "what it will.

These Qualities, or at least most of them I am well satisfied the Medicine I recommend is endued with; for besides what I have said of it, it keeps the Body soluble, corroborates the Bowels, comforts and strengthens both Brain and Nerves, sweetens all undue Sharpnesses of the Blood, and invigorates it when languid; and in fine, as it assists Nature in every due Secretion, cannot but be friendly to the *Animal* and *Vital* Functions. Here I expect that the Learned Methodist who is frighten'd at the Name of *Specifick*, will tell me that he cannot conceive how a *Diuretick* should have so many good Qualities besides. Him I shall answer in the Words of the *Experimental Philosopher* I often mention'd.

"I know, says he, "there have been and "are still *Dogmatical* "Physicians, that upon "the Principles as they

"pre-

" pretend of the *School-Philosophy*, reject all " Medicinal Virtues that " they think not redu- " cible to manifest Qua- " lities. But of such " *Galen* somewhere just- " ly complains that they " deny Matters of Fact, " or assign very incom- " petent Causes of the " Effects they pretend " to explain. And for " my part I am so far " from believing these " Men capable of giving " sufficient Reasons of " the more hidden Pro- " perties of Medicines, " that I am not apt to " think them able by " their Principles to " give clear and parti- " cular Explications, e- " ven of the more easie " and familiar Virtues " of Simples.

I do not pretend to trace the Medicine I speak of through every Granny it passes, nor to account for every part of its Operation. Yet I must say, that it should perform what is said of it, is no Mystery, when the Principles of it are consider'd and compar'd with those of the Disease. But it is for this reason that I call it a *Specifick*: I am satisfied, that the Effects of it are known by many, and so well attested that the most Scrupulous shall not doubt of it as I shall shew hereafter. The Violence of the Pain to those that take it, never lasts an hour after the first two or three Doses, and if they continue it, no Fit above four Days at furthest. What I say here, is of them that use it whilst the Fit is upon them. But as the *Gout* generally gives some warning of its Approach beforehand, if a Patient be provided with this Medicine, and takes it in time, he need never fear a Fit; I don't mean that it will hinder Nature in her kind Intent, (which is stopping the Fit, the most dangerous Attempt imaginable) but assist her so, as that those very Humours which she is discharging her self of,

are as fast as they are separated, turn'd off by Urine, which would otherwise rush into the Joints; and if by that means the Patient is safely secur'd from the great Pain and Fatigue that the Fit would have occasion'd, with the same or greater Advantage to his Health than his enduring it could be to him, I think it is doing him a great piece of Service. Gentlemen when they are at ease, can seldom be perswaded to the Use of Medicines; but whoever continues this Drink whilst he is free from the Assaults of this Distemper, shall find that the Invasions of the *Gout*, are not only retarded and kept off, but the rooted Disposition in the Body, tending to breed *Goutish* Humours, and a natural Weakness of the Joints are gradually and perfectly taken away by it, Dropsical and other concomitant Disorders from a Blood rendred languid by the Disease prevented, and a much better and more lasting State of Health and Vigour establish'd.

In strong People, and where the *Gout* is of no long standing, what I said last will be soon perceiv'd: But in those where the Distemper is inveterate, and seems to convert all the Nourishment into the *Gouty* Matter, to have the same Effects, longer time is required, and a more constant Use of the Medicine is to be complied with; it not being to be supposed, that when the Disease is so grown to a Habit, the Constitution of the Body can be changed, and the whole Man renewed by a slight and momentary Alteration of the Blood and Humours: *Rheumatisms* and wandering *Gouts*, as they proceed very nearly, if not altogether from the same Cause, are eradicated after the same manner, without the help of *Bleeding* that has been fatal to so many; It is like-

likewiſe impoſſible but this Drink muſt be of ſingular Uſe in many of thoſe *Symptomatick* and *Anomalous Gouts*, of which Dr. *Muſgrave* has treated ſo largely; becauſe in mixing it ſelf with the Blood and Juices, it attacks whereever it meets with the Wheyiſh Humour, the *Fomes Morbi*, and waſhing it away by degrees, in time wholly clears the Body from it. I know there are many, who following the vulgar Opinion, that the *Gout* is an incurable Diſtemper, will believe what I ſay is impoſſible: But to convince thoſe Unbelievers, I ſhall once more quote the Noble *Boyle*, that diligent Searcher after Truth, who in his *Experimental Philoſophy* gives us the following Account.

" As incurable a Diſ-
" eaſe (ſays he) as the
" radicated *Gout* is
" thought to be, (eſpe-
" cially in Patients not
" very temperate) and
" as tedious a Courſe of
" Phyſick as one would
" expect to be requiſite
" to the Cure of it in
" caſe it can be Cured;
" [illegible] I have been ſeve-
" [illegible] times viſited by an
" honeſt Merchant of
" *Amſterdam*, who was
" there noted for his
" Wealth and Skill in
" *Arte Tinctoriâ*. This
" Man, ten or twelve
" Years ago, had been
" for a long time ſo
" tormented with the
" *Gout*, both in Hands
" and Feet, that his
" Fits would ſometimes
" vex and confine him
" for a great part of
" the Year, and not
" leave him without
" Knots, as unwelcome
" Pledges of their Re-
" turn. But once that
" he was tortur'd to a
" degree that made him
" much pitied, one
" came and inform'd
" him of an *Empirick*,
" who had receiv'd
" from a great *Chymiſt*
" that had lodg'd in his
" Houſe, a *Secret*, with
" which he had already
" thoroughly cured ma-
" ny

" ny in a short time; " whereupon sending " for this Person and " offering him any thing " for some Relief, the " other refused to take " above ten Crowns, " which as it seems was " the usual Rate for the " Cure, and would not " receive that neither, " till the Reality of it " had been evinced, by " the Patients continu- " ing above six Months " well; and accordingly with a very few " Doses of a certain *Powder* and *Tincture*, the " Merchant was quickly freed, not only " from his *Pains*, but " from his *Gouty Tophi*. " And tho' he indulg'd " himself the Drinking " of *Rhenish Wine* very " freely, yet he never " had a Fit since, as " himself assur'd me one " Morning when for " Exercise sake he walked " five or six Miles to " see me; adding, that " the Man that cured " him dying suddenly, " he never could discover what the *Secret* " was wherewith so " many had been freed " from a *Disease* that " does so often *mock* the " *Skill* of the *greatest* " *Doctors*.

What I promise of my Medicine falls far short of this; for what is taken of it whilst the Patient is afflicted, serves only to ease the Pain and remove the present Fit; to retard the ensuing Fits, and free the Patients of the *Gouty* Disposition, requires a more reiterated Use of it after the Fits are over as well as when the Patients labour under them; Neither have I any Examples yet that it has cured any where the *Gout* has been so knotty and inveterate as that of the *Dutch Merchant* above-mention'd; tho' from the Nature of it, I am induc'd to hope it may do more in that particular, upon a sedulous Use of it, than either my self, or those that shall take it may be aware of.

What

What I can truſt to, and the Patient may depend on is this, that whether the *Gout* be inveterate or not, whenever the Fits return, whether from a Debauch or otherwiſe, the Medicine will always remove them, and immediately mitigate the Pain as before, with this Conſolation, that by the Change it every time makes on the Blood and other Juices, the ſucceeding Fits grow ſtill leſs and leſs, and the Pains dwindle, without the leaſt Detriment to the Conſtitution; and for this Reaſon alone, if it could do nothing elſe, I think it an admirable Remedy, that juſtly deſerves the Name of a *Specifick* in the *Gout*.

The *Peruvian Bark* takes off the Fit of an *Ague*, and if duly repeated, it wholly cures the Patient; but this does not ſecure him for the future; if he gets an *Ague* again, he muſt again take the *Bark*, and it will cure him as before; the ſame I aſſert of my Medicine in the *Gout*; and if the one be a *Specifick*, why not the other?

Whatever Man can ſay, nothing is ſo convincing as Matter of Fact, and therefore I would here leave off and refer the Reader to the *Teſtimonies* of thoſe that have tried the Medicine: But that I cannot forbear furniſhing him with one Argument more to ſilence the *ſnarling Methodiſts* that might perſuade him againſt the *Specifick* I recommend. It is nothing but a Quotation from the candid *Sydenham*, who labour'd under this Diſtemper ſo many Years. Having ſaid that he was not poſſeſs'd of any *Specifick* againſt the *Gout*, he tells us: "Tho', "by my long Courſe of "thinking I am induc'd "to believe that ſuch "a Remedy will be "ſome time or other "found out; and when "it happens to be, it "will expoſe the Igno-

"rance

" rance of the *Dogmatical*, and then it will " appear how much they " are deceived in the " Knowledge of the " *Essences* of *Diseases*, " and in the Medicines " they use for them; a " plain Instance where- " of we have in the " Discovery of the *Peruvian Bark*, the best " *Specifick* for *Agues*. For " how many Ages were " the Wits of the most " diligent Men exerci- " sed in finding out the " Cause of *Agues*, where- " by every one adapted " a Practice best agree- " ing to the *Theory* he " had framed? But how " those ways of Cure " were able to defend " the *Theorems*, is ma- " nifest from those " things whereof we " have yet a fresh Re- " membrance, in which " placing the various " Species of Intermit- " tents, in the various " Humours abounding " in the Body, they " were wont to direct " the Method of Cure " to the Alteration and " Evacuation of those " Humours: But how " unsuccessfully they " manag'd it, the ill " success of their En- " deavours, but especi- " ally the happier Use " of the *Jesuits Bark* " makes manifest; by the " help whereof now, " not regarding these " *Humours*, nor *Diet*, or " *Regimen*, by only ob- " serving a due Method " of giving the *Bark*, " we do the Business ef- " fectually, and scarce " ever fail, unless the " Sick be unnecessarily " kept in Bed whilst it " is used: Which not- " withstanding that In- " convenience, the Fe- " ver being heighten'd " by the heat of the Bed, " so great is the Virtue " of the *Bark*, the Sick " is most commonly " cured by it.

FOR

FOR the Good and Benefit of ſuch Perſons as are afflicted with the *Gout*, This is to certify, that I *Peter Varenne*, Bookſeller, at the *Seneca*'s Head near *Somerſet-Houſe* in the *Strand*, was ſeiz'd with an Hereditary *Gout* about the Age of 30, which afflicted me more and more for near 10 Years, and uſed to lay me up for ſeveral Weeks together eight or ten times in a Year, without getting any Relief, tho' I tried all that I could hear of, and all to no Purpoſe, rather worſe. About three Years ago I was taken with a very violent Fit, that held me for five Weeks together, ſo that I was not able to ſtir a Limb, or ſuffer ſo much as the Sheet to lye upon them; the Pain and Swelling being ſo very terrible and torturing as almoſt diſtracted me; at laſt I heard of a Drink prepar'd by Mr. *John Marten*, Surgeon, in *Hatton-Garden*, I had it, and drank of it according to his Direction, and in a few Hours it gave me ſuch wonderful Eaſe as cannot be expreſs'd; I could after having drank half the Doſe, ſleep and ſtir my Limbs, and in a few Days after, it wholly remov'd the Fit, ſo that nothing remain'd but Weakneſs, by the Humours lying ſo long, which in a little while after came to rights, as that I was able to follow my Buſineſs; ſo that I do really believe the Drink is not to be match'd for its Excellency, or that any thing in the World can more ſafely and ſpeedily relieve. And at any time when I find the *Gout* is coming I betake my ſelf to the Drink, and the Fit is immediately gone, ſo that I have not had ſince I uſed it what may be call'd a Fit; for before I uſed this Drink, the Pains would fly from Joint to Joint, that if I was eaſed in one Part, I was in Torture in another, and very often in all my

Limbs at once, ſo that no Part was free; but ſince my uſing of this Drink; wherever the Pain ſeiz'd me it left me; and I do ſincerely believe, that whoever ſhall take it will never be confin'd a Day with the *Gout*; I knowing ſeveral People that have experienc'd the ſame as well as my ſelf. The Truth of all herein mention'd, I am ready to teſtify upon Oath, whenever it is needful for any ones Satisfaction, as witneſs my Hand, *November* the 10th 1712.

Peter Varenne.

FOR the good of thoſe alike afflicted, I *John Sayer* of *Bidleſden* in the County of *Bucks*, Eſq; do Certifie, That having Signs of the *Gout*'s coming upon me for about a Week, which grew more and more, till at length I was in great Pain, and could ſcarce ſet my Legs to the Ground without the help of Crutches, that I expected to be laid up for two or three Months together, as I was laſt Fall of the Leaf, and uſed to be twice or thrice in a Year; but being inform'd of the Succeſs of a Drink that Mr. *Marten* in *Hatton-Garden*, Surgeon, gives for the *Gout*, I ſent my Man for it on *Saturday* the 17th of this Inſtant *January*, about Noon, and drank of it as he directed, and had wonderful Eaſe by it before I went that Night to Bed, and ſlept well, which I could not before; the next Day all Pain was gone, and I could walk about my Chamber without Crutches, and the Day following I went Abroad, and have had not the leaſt Appearance of a Fit ſince, but been as hearty, lively and brisk, with a good Appetite, *&c.* as ever in my Life, and all owing to that Excellent Drink, which upon all like Occaſions I ſhall never be without: The Truth of which I will at any

time

time make Affidavit, as witness my Hand this 26th of *January*, 1712-13. *John Sayer*,

Note, This Gentleman since his giving me this *Certificate*, being unfortunately kill'd; his Foot-Man, *James Therry*, that he sent to me for the Drink, can and will inform any Person of its Success, and may be heard of at Mr. *Morgan*'s a Haberdasher of Small-Ware, at the *Nag's-Head* and *Black-Boy* in the *Old-Baily*, within two or three Doors of *Ludgate-Hill*, where his Master lodged.

One Mr. *Tho. Bennett* living near the Church at *Greenwich*, a Person that I never to my Knowledge saw in my Life, sent me a Letter on *Wednesday* the 21st of *January* last, that he was seiz'd violently and (using his own Words) to the Purpose with the *Gout*; I sent him my Drink the next Day, which he drank as I directed, and on the 28th following he sends me another Letter with the Certificate here-under enclos'd. He begins his Letter thus. 'Sir, I 'can't but acknowledge 'that I have found more 'Benefit by your Drink 'than by all the Medi-'cines I ever took for 'these 12 Years past, in 'its carrying off the 'Pains of the *Gout* which 'are generally with me 'very violent; it has 'carry'd off the Pain out 'of my Stomach, *&c.*

THis is to Certifie, that I *Thomas Bennett* of *Greenwich* in *Kent*, have been afflicted with a radicated *Gout* many Years, and had very severe Fits thereof, and being lately seiz'd with a very violent Fit, which extreamly tortur'd me, and affected my Stomach as well as my Joints, and hearing of a Drink prepar'd by Mr. *Marten*, Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I had it, which after I had drank of it as he directed, gave me perfect Ease in a few Hours, and carried away by

Urine, the *Gouty* Humour from my Stomach, as well as Joints, that I never met with any Medicine that did me any thing like the Good that it did me, and which I cannot but acknowledge in Juſtice to the Medicine; and hope upon continuing of it, it may in time clear me of the *Gouty* Humour, as witneſs my Hand this 28th of *January* 1712-13.

Tho. Bennett.

FOR Publick Good, I *John Noden* in *Richbell-Court* in *Red-Lyon-Street* in *Holbourn*, do declare and certifie, That I was in violent Torture with the *Gout*, in the great Joint of my great Toe, which was alſo very red and much ſwell'd, and upon my drinking a Liquor I got from one Mr. *Marten* a Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I was perfectly eaſed after a few Doſes drinking it, that the Pain was gone, and the Swelling aſwaged; and had I not been oblig'd at the fourth Days drinking it to walk abroad about my Affairs, I had ſooner recover'd the full Uſe and Strength of my Foot, and do recommend it as a moſt wonderful Medicine, and declare, that I never could get any thing like it, for I was uſed always to be laid up for Weeks together in great Pain with the *Gout* before I met with this Drink, and now don't expect ever to be laid up a Day, in witneſs whereof I here ſet my Hand the 14th of *January* 1712-13.

John Noden.

On *Thurſday* the 13th of *November* laſt, I was ſent for about Noon to one Mr. *Thompſon*, the Maſter of the *George-Inn* in *High-Holbourn*, whom I found in great Pain with the *Gout* in one of his Legs, that had held him ſeveral Days, and not

not able to ſet it to the Ground; I ſent him my Drink in the Evening, which was as ſoon as I could get it ready, happening then to have none prepar'd. He began to drink of it about eight or nine that Night; I went to ſee him the next Day in the Evening, and found him at Eaſe, playing at Tables by the Fire. He would have paid me for it then, but not willing to hinder him, I bid him let it alone, and I would call a *Monday* following, which I did, and found him below Stairs in the Kitchin, from whence croſs a Yard he came walking to me to the Room behind the Bar, where he paid me for it, and drank part of a Pint of Wine with me.

THis is to Certifie thoſe it may concern, That I *Richard Davis*, Butcher at *Cow-Croſs*, was taken on *Wedneſday* being *Chriſtmas-Eve*, with the *Gout* in a moſt miſerable manner, which pain'd me ſo violently in my Legs and one Hand, that I could not help crying and roaring out, the Pain being as if Dogs were gnawing my Fleſh, that I had no reſt Night nor Day, which held me ſo till the *Monday* following, and would in all likelihood have ſo continued for Weeks together as it uſed to do, but that being told of a Drink for Cure of the *Gout*, to be had at Mr. *Marten*'s, Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I ſent for it, and began to drink of it that Evening as he directed me, and it gave me entire Eaſe in a very little time, that I ſlept well that Night, and the next Day I was able to walk about the Houſe, and the Day following abroad, as witneſs my Hand the 31ſt of *December* 1712.

Rich. Davis.

On

On the 26th of *November* last one Mr. *John Gore*, a Pale-Ale Brewer, at the *Swan-Inn* at *Holborn-Bridge*, sent me the following Letter.

'Sir, The *Gout* seiz'd 'me on *Monday* last in 'my Elbow, with a 'swelling and violent 'Pain, which is some-'thing abated now, and 'is fallen very much in-'to my Hand, which is 'useless, and I begin to 'feel a little Pain in 'one of my Knees to 'Night; about this 'time last Year I had a 'Fit of it, which last-'ed till *March*, and I 'lay a great part of the 'time in Bed, not ha-'ving been able to use 'any of my Limbs, for 'it was in my Hands, 'Wrists, Elbows, Knees, 'and all over me. I 'have been afflicted with 'it near 20 Years. If 'you believe you can 'relieve me, it will be 'an act of Kindness to 'do it, but if you think 'you cannot, I desire 'you'll be plain with 'me. Sir I shall be 'grateful to you, *&c.*

I went to see him, and provided him the Drink, which he paid me for, and by that time he had drank it four Days or less, all his Pains had left him, and his Joints more pliable, as he told me at my visiting him the second time; tho' a very great Weakness remained by the *Gouty* Humours lying so long and severely on his Joints. Upon this Amendment he wrote and sent me the following Letter.

'Sir, I think my self 'oblig'd in Justice to 'you, and in Charity 'to the World, to pub-'lish your Medicine; 'I'll draw up a form of 'a Certificate as soon 'as I get out of my Bed, 'and in the beginning, 'or some Day next 'Week, will make you 'a Visit with it.

I am,

Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

John Gore.

But

But he being weak by the Diſtemper's lying long on him as aforeſaid, and a Perſon of a very untoward habit of Body, and the *Gout* as inveterate and chronick as moſt known, and never took the Drink for more than four Days, as already ſaid, tho' I adviſ'd his continuing it longer, which he, to avoid the Charge as he told me ſince, declin'd, has not yet been with me to perform the latter part of his Letter, but to ſhew the Opinion he notwithſtanding retain'd of the Remedy, he ſent me ſoon after a line or two that he will, with this Addition. *Your Drink ſeems to be the moſt rational Method to me of removing the* Gout, *of any thing I have yet uſed, but it is not to be believ'd that four Days can eradicate a chronick ſtubborn Diſtemper*, &c.

I *Mary Hodgſon* in *Wharton's Court*, near the end of *Grays-Inn-Lane*, certify, That a Servant Maid of mine, one *Hannah Smith*, was ſo grievouſly afflicted with the wandring *Gout* or *Rheumatiſm*, that ſhe could not ſtir her Limbs or whole Body if ſhe had been to gain the World, but lay as if ſhe was faſten'd to the Bed, and in ſuch violent wracking Pains, as made her cry out, and was alſo ſo very much ſwell'd in her *Limbs*, *Stomach*, and up to her Throat, that we could not tell what to do with her; but remembring to have heard of a *Gout*-Medicine which Mr. *Marten* the Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, had done great Cures with, my Daughter ſent the Maids Siſter to him, and had it, and by that time ſhe had taken a few Doſes of it, ſhe had ſuch wonderful Eaſe as can ſcarce be believ'd but by thoſe that ſaw its Effects, and alſo could ſtir and uſe her Limbs, which ſhe could not, nor had not done for ſome Days before, as ſeveral beſides my ſelf that were

pre-

preſent, and were Eye and Ear Witneſſes of the ſame can teſtifie, as witneſs my Hand this 31ſt of *January*, 1712-13.

Mary Hodgſon.

THis is to certify, That I *Gilbert Pincke*, Apothecary in *Leather-lane*, *Holbourn*, have been afflicted with an Hereditary *Gout* for many Years, my Father dying of it; and being taken with a very violent Fit, that pain'd me in a moſt terrible manner in my Knees and right Hand, that I could have no reſt or eaſe, and hearing of a *Gout-Drink*, noted for giving preſent Eaſe, that was prepar'd by Mr. *Marten*, Surgeon in *Hatton-Garden*, I ſent my Son a *Sunday* laſt the 8th of this Inſtant, about Noon, for it, and drank of it, and it gave me wonderful and ſpeedy Eaſe, taking away all my Pains beyond any thing I ever knew or could imagine it poſſible for any Medicine to do in ſo ſhort a time, inſomuch that I really believe it the beſt Remedy that can be for that Purpoſe, for as the *Sunday* before I drank it, I could not ſuffer the leaſt thing to touch me where the Pains lay, nor ſo much as cloſe my Fingers to hold any thing between them, they were ſo ſwell'd and painful, I can now, tho' this is but *Wedneſday*, hold a Pen and write, as witneſs my Hand this 11th of *February*, 1712-13.

Gilbert Pincke.

I *Randal Mynſhull*, Gent. in *Eagle-ſtreet*, near *Red-Lyon-Square*, hereby acknowledge, That being in a moſt wretched Condition afflicted with the Pains of the *Gout* and *Rheumatiſm*, as not able to ſtir or turn my ſelf in my Bed, without all hopes of help; and being told by a Relation of mine

mine of a Drink which one Mr. *Marten* in *Hatton-Garden*, Surgeon, made, that would preſently remove thoſe wracking Pains, I deſir'd him to get it for me on *Monday* laſt, the 9th Inſtant, which he then did, and upon drinking it I found ſuch Eaſe, as I could not expect, conſidering how bad I was, it ſoon taking off all my Pains, and which if I had not had that Drink, in all probability the Pains would have kill'd me, they were ſo very violent, ſo as no Mortal could ſcarce bear them, as witneſs my Hand this 13th of *February*, 1712-13.

Randal Mynſhull.

Tho' the aforegoing *Certificates*, at any time, if requir'd, will be made *Affidavits*, yet are they but a very ſmall part of the Aſſurances I can produce, and might have added for the Honour of my *Specifick*, as ſtrong and effectual as can be deſir'd, had I like other Surgeons, made my Practice General, and not (as I thought it my Intereſt) confin'd my ſelf almoſt to one Branch alone; which, and the Cenſoriouſneſs of the Age, diſcourag'd them from offering, and me from asking the Liberty; whereby at preſent no mention is to be made of them; beſides, ſhould I have added any more Inſtances of Cures perform'd by this *Specifick*, I might juſtly fear that conſidering the ſmall Bulk of this *Treatiſe*, the Reader ſhould upbraid me with ſelling him inſtead of a *Book*, a *Catalogue* of *Certificates*; and if thoſe already produced ſhould not prove Satisfactory to any, I doubt it is only to ſuch as have no mind to be ſatisfied at all. Perſons of Quality, I know are ſeldom of the firſt that make Trials of this Nature, and ſo it is no wonder I have yet none of their Teſtimonies;

ſtimonies; but as there is no reaſon but the Medicine will have the ſame Effects upon them as upon others, I make no doubt, when they come to be convinc'd of its univerſal Succeſs, but they will eſteem it a Service to themſelves, as I ſhall an Honour to me, to make uſe of it, and likewiſe for publick Good, proclaim it; regarding more what the Medicine does, than who or what the Perſon is that diſpenſes it; and I am ſo well aſſur'd of the Safety and Certainty of the Remedy, that I dare pawn my Life if one in a thouſand be diſappointed by it; and when it ſhall have paved its own way, and come to be univerſally known, I ſhall have no occaſion to ſay any more of the *Specifick*, or the *Gout* either, according to the old *Latin* Proverb, *Ubi rerum Teſtimonia adſunt non opus eſt verbis. Where Matter of Fact ſpeaks there is no need of Words.* This puts me in mind of the Story of our famous Sir *Robert Talbor*, with which I'll diſmiſs the Reader. *Talbor*, who was Servant to an *Apothecary* in *Cambridge*, having learned the Uſe of the *Jeſuits Bark* came up to *London*, where not finding ſufficient Encouragement, and his Authority not being great enough to give Credit to the Remedy, he travels into *Kent*, and there from Town to Town Cures all ſorts of *Agues*, by which having got Money, and Aſſurance of the Efficacy of the Remedy, he returns to *London*, and ſets up by the Name of Dr. *Talbor*. At firſt he was loaded with the infamous Name of *Quack*, but ſo great was his Succeſs, that he ſeldom fail'd of Curing all he undertook. At length he was ſent for to *Court*, gave his Medicine to King *Charles* the Second, and was by him *Knighted*. He liv'd as great as any Man, kept open Houſe, and Eat in gilt Plate, yet to do him right,

right, he was eaſie enough to poor or ordinary People, but the Rich he made to pay for it; and had he been ſo cunning as to have conceal'd his Medicine, he might have had an Eſtate almoſt equal to a *Prince:* But it coming to the Knowledge of our Phyſicians, and they falling into the Uſe of it, put ſome Check to his extraordinary Buſineſs; whereupon he goes to *France*, where *Agues* were then *Epidemick*, and having likewiſe cured abundance of People there, he was at laſt ſent for to Perſons of the higheſt rank, and had equal Succeſs, Curing (as Mr. *Peter* the Surgeon tells us in his Account of the *Jeſuits Bark*, from whence I took part of this Story) the *Prince* of *Conde* and others of the Blood Royal of *France*, and was largely rewarded, having a thouſand Piſtols given him for one Cure; inſomuch that the *King* himſelf being likewiſe ſeiz'd with an *Ague*, ſeem'd enclin'd to make uſe of *Talbor*'s Medicine; but that his Phyſicians pretending a wonderful Care for his *Majeſty*'s Life, ſtrenuouſly oppos'd it with all the Rhetorick and Intereſt they were Maſters of. The *King* in the mean time very much tired with his ſhaking Companion, and ſeeing every Body Cured whom *Talbor* undertook, appoints an interview between his Phyſicians and the Foreigner, and being reſolv'd to know the Reaſons why he might not be Cured as well as others, orders that the Matter ſhould be diſcuſs'd in his Preſence. Accordingly they met, and to begin methodically with the Definition of the Diſtemper, one of the Phyſicians thinking afterwards to come gradually nearer to the Point, ask'd *Talbor*, *What is an Ague?* *Talbor*, who knew little of Phyſick, but was ſure of his Medicine, to pre-

vent all future Queſtions, anſwer'd very conciſely. *An Ague is a Diſtemper, which I can Cure and you can't.* The Phyſicians look'd upon one another, the *King* laugh'd heartily, took *Talbor*'s Medicine, and to the great Mortification of the whole Faculty of Phyſick, was Cured as others had been before him; which great Succeſſes, and ſelling his Medicine to the King of *France* for a great Sum of Money, made him ſo hated by the *French* Phyſicians, that the *King* allow'd him a Guard, a *Swiſs* being continually at his Door. He liv'd ſome Years in *France* very profuſely, and at laſt died there, not without Suſpicion of being *Poiſon'd.*

I don't believe that *Envy* and *Malice* attend leſs on worthy Performances now than in *Talbor*'s Time: But to leave as little room for *Doubts* and *Detraction* as is poſſible, I ſhall conclude with this *Notice* to the Publick, *That wherever there is a Patient or Patients labouring under the moſt exquiſite Torments of the* Gout, *if he or they make uſe of my* Specifick, *I profer to ſit by, and attend the Operation of the Medicine; ſo that every Phyſician, and every Patient that queſtions the Truth of what I have here aſſerted, may ſee it confirm'd in few Hours, or at leaſt have the Pleaſure of Laughing at me for a* poſitive Coxcomb *that pretends to more than he can perform. And till ſuch Tryal or Tryals are made, it will be ungenerous in any, either to decry or diſpiſe it.*

While the Preſs waited for my Correcting theſe laſt Pages, a long Letter came to my Hands from an Anonimous Author, under the Pretence of Friendſhip, but indeed in ridicule of my Advertiſement in the *Poſt-Poy* of *Tueſday* the 10th of *February* laſt, about the *Gout*; with a wonder I ſhould expoſe my ſelf in attempting the

the Cure of an inveterate rooted Diſtemper in a few Hours, by one particular Medicine, which has for ſo many Ages baffled the Endeavours of the beſt of Methods and Medicines adminiſtred by the greateſt Phyſicians: And at laſt tells me he knows a Medicine, that by being us'd only outwardly will ſooner remove the *Gouty* Pains, than my inward *Specifick*, and he does not know but ſafer too. In the firſt place, I muſt take leave to tell the querulous Writer, that he is Maſter of but little Senſe, to miſtake ſo groſly, what in that Advertiſement I aſſerted ſo plainly; and juſt the ſame portion of Brains has he in ſpeaking againſt a Medicine he knows nothing of. What I ſaid in that Advertiſement was this. *If I am not that lucky Perſon that has hit upon the Remedy that will* thoroughly Cure, *I affirm to have diſcover'd a* Specifick, *that being drank, will* ſafely *and* perfectly eaſe *the moſt violent Pains of that Diſtemper in a few Hours, it having done it to ſeveral that have lain under the Wrack and Torment of them for many Weeks together without any help or eaſe: Which, if it would do nothing elſe, I take to be, and the Patients have thought ſo, a great piece of Service*, &c. That it will do what I ſaid of it, the foregoing Proofs, I think ſufficiently make manifeſt; and if by its ſweet Balmy Parts, it will qualify, ſoften, and take away the Edge of the ſharp, ſalt, corroſive Humours that fret and gnaw the moſt ſenſible Parts about the Joints, ſo as to lead the Patient ſafely and ſpeedily from the moſt unſufferable Tortures of that Diſtemper into perfect Eaſe, even to admiration, as it will infallibly do, and I believe beyond any other thing in the World, why may it not in proceſs of time, upon a due Obſervance

as

as to Eating and Drinking, &c. make a thorough Cure? I make it a queſtion, becauſe as I have not yet tried it ſo far, I ſhall not, nor have I inſerted it will, as may be ſeen in ſome of the Pages of this Treatiſe.

What I ſaid laſt as to its Cure, may perhaps gaul my angry Gentleman again, but in Juſtification of what I ſay, I ſhall take the Pains to ſatisfy him, if he is to be ſatisfied, that it may not be altogether ſo impoſſible as he imagines, even in the worſt of the Diſtemper, in ſome Bodies; and ſhall alſo whiſper a word or two in his Ear, as to his external *Arcanum*, which he ſets ſuch a value upon; And this I cannot ſo well do, as from one of the beſt Authors *Europe* ever bred, I mean the late Ornament of his Age and Country, the deſervedly famous Dr. *Sydenham*, whoſe Works all the learned World admire, believing his Sentiments will have more weight with my Antagoniſt than all I am able to ſay, he being in his time a Phyſician, that as a good Author who intimately knew him, ſays, 'was of ſuch un-'wearied Diligence in '*Obſerving*; ſuch ready 'Sagacity in *Diſcerning*; 'ſuch nice accuracy in '*Deſcribing*; and ſuch 'happy Skill in *Curing* 'Diſeaſes; together 'with ſuch undiſembled 'Candour in frankly 'imparting to the 'World his Diſcove-'ries; that no *Age*, no '*Nation* can boaſt his '*Equal*, much leſs his '*Superiour*, ſince the 'great *Hippocrates*. This inimitable Man, having ſaid that he believ'd the *Gout* was to be Cured, goes on, and tells us in Subſtance this. *Whatever Method is taken for it, as it is a chronick Diſeaſe whoſe Cauſe having paſs'd into an Habit, to the ſubverting and deſtroying the priſtine and natural Oeconomy of the Body, eſpecially where the Patient hath in-*

dulg'

dulg'd himself in Surfeiting and Drunkenness, neglected his wonted Exercises, and is worn out by Sloth and Idleness, or by hard Study, or continual and intense Thinking, or by some other Errors of Life, must be us'd constantly and daily with the greatest Diligence; for the preternatural Humours that are heap'd up, and arriv'd to the highest Degree, do so confound all, soften the Flesh, and weaken the Joints, that when they break out, they readily receive the Humours that fall on them; and that he that endeavours to drive it away by this or that Remedy or Regimen now and then used, labours in vain; because as the Habit is chiefly founded, and consists as well in the Weakness of all the Digestions, as in the want of the natural Strength of the particular Parts, both of them must be provided against, in order to restore them gradually to their former State; and to perform this fully and perfectly, may not seem possible, as any Habit is difficultly changed, especially in old People, yet the Cure is to be endeavour'd as much as the Strength and Age will permit, and the nearer or further off from this Mark the Patient is, he will more or less avoid the Tyranny of the Gout; nor can this Intention be answer'd altogether by Medicine, unless regard be had likewise to Diet, and those other things call'd Non-Naturals, such Persons as think it may, will be most certainly deceived.

Now how far either the Advertisement, or my Opinion, (which corresponds with the just-now-mention'd Physicians) comes near my kind Friend's Assertion in his Letter, *that I propos'd to Cure the worst of* Gouts *in the worst of Bodies, in a few Hours*, I leave the Reader to judge. And then for his external Remedy that he says will do sooner and safer than my internal *Specifick*, which I say he knows not a tittle of, you shall hear what the same great and good Physician says of such.

If

If any one enquires for external Remedies to eaſe the Pains of the Gout, *I hitherto know none, tho' I have tried many in my ſelf and others, having been afflicted with that Diſtemper near* 34 *Years; therefore let none impoſe upon themſelves that way, for I confidently affirm, that the greateſt part of thoſe who have periſh'd in the* Gout, *have not been ſo properly kill'd by the Diſeaſe, as by improper Applications of external Medicines. And if any one will try, by uſing them at the beginning or progreſs of a Fit, (the time he moſt wants them) he w ſoon perceive how fruitle they are, and how vain h Hopes.*

This I think is ſufficie to make any one afrai how they meddle wit outward Applications but as the Diſcuſſion thoſe Matters happen at a Juncture unexpe edly, if what is ſai ſhould not be ſufficien to ſatisfy *him* (who ſay he's a Phyſician) tha occaſion'd it, it may b of ſome uſe to *others*, an ſo far I may reſt in hop that my Labour will no be altogether loſt.

Note, Tho' this Drink will keep, and for tha reaſon may be ſent to any part of *England*, ye to prevent being impos'd upon by my Enemie who may not ſtick to contrive ways to blaſt, poſſible, the Credit of the Medicine, I reſolve t diſpoſe of none of it from this time forwar till I firſt ſee or am ſatisfied how the Patient is, an that he drinks it according to Directions; witho his ſtrictly obſerving which, I will not be anſwe able for the Succeſs.

Note alſo, That if any Perſons in the Country ſhould require further Satisfaction than what th Treatiſe affords, unleſs with an Order for t Medicine, they are deſir'd to pay the Poſtage of t Letters they ſend me, or expect no Anſwer.

FINIS.